

# Service Area Plan

## Department Of Conservation And Recreation

### Preservation of Open Space Lands (50401)

---

## Service Area Background Information

### Service Area Description

This service area includes operational expenses transferred to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation; funds appropriated to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) for grant opportunities, and administrative support of the VLCF including grants management and the development of land conservation tracking and targeting tools and conservation plans on behalf of the VLCF; and activities related to the management and outreach activities of DCR's Office of Land Conservation. The Office of Land Conservation provides outreach, training, and technical support for Virginia's land trust community and assistance to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

### Service Area Alignment to Mission

DCR works with Virginians to conserve, protect, and enhance their lands and water.

### Service Area Statutory Authority

- The overarching authority may be found in Section 1 of Article XI of the Virginia Constitution that reads: "To the end that the people have clean air, pure water, and the use and enjoyment for recreation of adequate public lands, waters, and other natural resources, it shall be the policy of the Commonwealth to conserve, develop, and utilize its natural resources, its public lands, and its historical sites and buildings. Further, it shall be the Commonwealth's policy to protect its atmosphere, lands, and waters from pollution, impairment, or destruction, for the benefit, enjoyment, and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth."
- The director shall serve as executive secretary to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and shall be responsible for providing technical assistance and performing any administrative duties that the Foundation may direct. As such the director is responsible for developing for the Chairman of the Board an executive summary and report of the interim activity and work of the Board on or before December 15 of each even-numbered year. The document shall report on the status of the Foundation and its Fund including, but not limited to, implementation of its strategic plan; land conservation targeting tools developed for the Foundation; descriptions of projects that received funding; a description of the geographic distribution of land protected; expenditures from, interest earned by, and financial obligations of the Fund; and progress made toward recognized state and regional land conservation goals. Additionally, the Department shall administer the Foundation's lands as if such lands were departmental lands, and the regulations established by the Director for the management and protection of departmental lands shall apply to real estate held by the Foundation. The Department's conservation officers commissioned under § 10.1-115 shall have jurisdiction on all of the Foundation's lands and waters. Code of Virginia, Title 10.1, Chapter 10.2.
- The director of the department is responsible for prescribing uniform standards relating to real estate devoted to open-space use under Special Assessment for Land Preservation commonly known as the Land Use Assessment Law. Code of Virginia, Title 58.1, Chapter 32, Article 4.
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation; Code of Virginia, Title 10.1, Chapter 18, § § 10.1-1800 et seq.
- Open Space Land Act; Code of Virginia, Title 10.1, Chapter 17, § § 10.1-1700 et seq.
- Virginia Conservation Easement Act; Code of Virginia, Title 10.1, Chapter 10.1, § § 10.1-1009 et seq.
- DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION (4 VAC 5)  
§ 4 VAC 5-20. Standards for Classification of Real Estate as Devoted to Open Space Use Under the Virginia Land Use assessment Law, eff. Apr. 28, 1976; amended Jan. 5, 1989.

# Service Area Plan

## Department Of Conservation And Recreation

### Preservation of Open Space Lands (50401)

---

#### Service Area Customer Base

Customer(s)	Served	Potential
Agricultural Community	50	250
Boards and Foundations	2	2
Conservation Organizations and Land Trusts	25	40
Government Agencies (Federal, State, and Local)	25	25
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	47	47
Special Customer Groups	50	150

#### **Anticipated Changes In Service Area Customer Base**

Virginia's increasing population and the commensurate growth of communities and expansion into rural areas is placing greater pressure on Virginia's open space resources. Acres of open space, farmland, and forests are being converted through development annually. As development increases, DCR's customers are both going to expand and become more vocal and engaged in an effort to preserve open space. We expect an expansion in the number of conservation organizations and land trusts.

# Service Area Plan

## Department Of Conservation And Recreation

### Preservation of Open Space Lands (50401)

---

#### **Service Area Partners**

Agricultural Community

#### **Service Area Partners**

Boards and Foundations

#### **Service Area Partners**

Chesapeake Bay Program (Includes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia)

#### **Service Area Partners**

Contractual Services

#### **Service Area Partners**

Engineers and Consultants

#### **Service Area Partners**

##### **Federal Agencies**

Environmental Protection Agency; National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration; National Park Service; Natural Resources Conservation Service; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Forest Service

#### **Service Area Partners**

##### **Local Governments**

Departments of Parks and Recreation

#### **Service Area Partners**

Non-profits

#### **Service Area Partners**

Regional Planning District Commissions

#### **Service Area Partners**

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

#### **Service Area Partners**

##### **State Agencies**

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Virginia Department of General Services; Virginia Department of Historic Resources; Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy; Virginia Council on Indians and Individual Indian Tribes; Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; Virginia Department of Forestry; Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries; Virginia Department of Health; Virginia Department of Rails and Public Transportation; Virginia Department of Transportation; Virginia Institute of Marine Science; Virginia Marine Resources Commission

#### **Service Area Partners**

Tourism

# Service Area Plan

## Department Of Conservation And Recreation

### Preservation of Open Space Lands (50401)

---

#### **Service Area Products and Services**

- Conservation lands tracking and targetting tools
- Property conservation through funding fee simple and easement acquisitions
- Financial Assistance
- Outdoor Recreational Activities
- Technical Assistance
- Public Education
- Public Information

#### **Factors Impacting Service Area Products and Services**

- state funding levels
- declining federal funding levels
- increased cost of construction materials, services, and land
- increased demand for agency services/products

#### **Anticipated Changes To Service Area Products and Services**

- More need for prioritizing what will be preserved.
- Greater need for education on benefits of land conservation.
- Greater need for regional and statewide land planning.
- Stronger land conservation network for better communication.

#### **Service Area Human Resources Summary**

##### **Service Area Human Resources Overview**

##### **Service Area Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Summary**

Effective Date:

Total Authorized Position level .....

Vacant Positions .....

Non-Classified (Filled).....

Full-Time Classified (Filled) .....

Part-Time Classified (Filled) .....

Faculty (Filled) .....

Wage .....

Contract Employees .....

Total Human Resource Level .....

##### **Factors Impacting Service Area Human Resources**

##### **Anticipated Changes in Service Area Human Resources**

# Service Area Plan

## Department Of Conservation And Recreation

### Preservation of Open Space Lands (50401)

---

#### Service Area Financial Summary

Included in this General Fund appropriation is \$2.5 M for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, \$1.3 M for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and \$71,000 for payroll costs for one employee to work with land conservation initiatives in the Agency's Land Conservation Office.

In order for the Commonwealth to meet its Chesapeake Bay land preservation commitments, a permanent source of sufficient funding for matching grants through the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation is necessary.

	<u>Fiscal Year 2007</u>		<u>Fiscal Year 2008</u>	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$4,074,989	\$300,000	\$3,874,989	\$300,000
Changes To Base	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>SERVICE AREA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,074,989</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$3,874,989</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

**Service Area Plan**  
**Department Of Conservation And Recreation**  
**Preservation of Open Space Lands (50401)**

---

**Service Area Objectives, Measures, and Strategies**

**Objective 50401.01**

***Conserve important resource lands and meet Virginia's land conservation goals by 2010.***  
**(Key)**

The role of DCR's Office of Land Conservation is to provide assistance to conserve important resource lands and meet Virginia's 2010 land conservation goals through outreach, training, and support to Virginia's land trust and conservation community and to assist landowners and others with conservation issues. This includes providing staff to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) Board of Trustees and effectively administering the VLCF grant program and conservation plan.

**This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:**

- Meet growing demands on Virginia's award-winning State Parks, while maintaining Virginia's traditional conservation orientation.
- Advance the protection, conservation, and stewardship of Virginia's significant natural areas, conservation lands, and natural heritage resources.

**This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):**

● **Measure 50401.01.01**

***The Commonwealth will, in conjunction with private and public partners, preserve for conservation purposes***

**Measure Type:** Outcome      **Measure Frequency:** Every Six Months

**Measure Baseline:** 65,763 acres in FY 2006.

**Measure Target:** 75,000 acres in FY 2007; 90,000 acres in FY 2008; 110,000 acres in FY 2009; 59,237 acres in FY 2010.

**Measure Source and Calculation:**

The number of acres permanently preserved from development between July 1, 2005 and December 31, 2009 will be tracked by DCR utilizing its conservation lands database.

● **Measure 50401.01.02**

***Percentage of land preserved towards the 20% Chesapeake Bay watershed goal.***

**Measure Type:** Outcome      **Measure Frequency:** Annually

**Measure Baseline:** 17.4% as of June 30, 2005

**Measure Target:** 0.6% increase annually (18.6% by June 30, 2007)

**Measure Source and Calculation:**

For each awarded grant, a written agreement is developed which sets a time frame for when the funded grant program must be closed (completed). The date on the grant agreement serves as the data source for this measure. Staff will track project implementation with the project sponsor to work towards completing the project and closing out the grant within the specified time frame. The measurement calculation will be the average percent of all grant projects completed in the established time frame from each given grant round beginning in 2005.

**Objective 50401.01 Has the Following Strategies:**

- Coordinate with other state agencies involved in land conservation.

# **Service Area Plan**

## ***Department Of Conservation And Recreation***

### ***Preservation of Open Space Lands (50401)***

---

- Coordinate with the Department of Taxation to determine the amount of land and the location of property preserved through the tax credit program.
- Provide staff coordination for awarding and implementing Virginia Land Conservation Foundation grants.
- Assist local land trusts with land preservation efforts.
- Provide specialty workshops.
- Utilize DCR's Conservation Lands Database to track progress towards Governor Kaine's and the Bay Program's land conservation goals.